Title: Need to take steps to prevent foreign companies from claiming patent rights on Jute products to safeguard Indian Jute farmers.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (COOCHBEHAR): After Basmati and Turmeric, it is a matter of regret that Hessian (Jute Product) has been got patented by GEOHESS, a British Firm under European Patent No. 728048. GEOHESS has started demanding royalty from producers of Hessian in India and from Indian Jute Mills which has adversely affected the Indian Jute growers and Indian Jute Mills.

Till date, India was being considered as one of the biggest Jute growing countries in the world, for the last number of decades, but surprisingly the Patent Rights have been granted to a British Firm overnight. If it is allowed to continue, approximately three crores population of West Bengal, Tripura and Assam, which is depending upon Raw Jute and Jute Industry will be severely affected. If not checked, this will also adversely affect the economy of not only West Bengal, but the entire Eastern Region in the country.

So, in the interest of the economy of the Eastern Region and in the interest of approximately three crore Indians of West Bengal, Tripura and Assam as well as in the interest of the nation, I would like to request the Government to take immediate remedial steps in the matter.